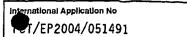


A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C12P19/04 C088 C08B11/20 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12P C08B IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category \* 9 GB 2 281 073 A (COURTAULDS PLC) X 22 February 1995 (1995-02-22) cited in the application 1,2,6-9abstract; examples 3,4 Υ 9 EP 0 382 577 A (ALKO LTD) χ 16 August 1990 (1990-08-16) cited in the application 1,2,6-9abstract; example 2c; table 2 Υ EP 0 465 992 A (AQUALON CO) χ 15 January 1992 (1992-01-15) cited in the application 1-8 abstract; example 1 Α Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Special categories of cited documents : 'A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) coment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of malling of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 09/12/2004 22 November 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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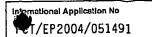
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